

Docket: M-9050 US (50P3974)
Serial No. 09/703,020

REMARKS

This amendment responds to the Office Action dated July 11, 2003. Claim 40 has been amended to correct a typographical error in the dependency. Claim 16 has been cancelled previously without disclaimer of or prejudice to the subject matter contained therein. The remaining claims are unchanged from their previously amended and originally filed versions.

CLAIMS 1-41 ARE PATENTABLE OVER CHAUVIN ET AL.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-41 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,886,701 to Chauvin et al. [hereinafter "Chauvin et al."]. Essentially, the Examiner contends that Chauvin et al. discloses all of the elements of the claims at issue. The Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's characterization of this reference vis-à-vis the claims at issue.

Chauvin et al. fails to teach or disclose utilizing multiple texture layers to create graphic images. Yet this feature is set forth in each of the independent claims. For example, claim 1 recites: "the texture memory [is] configured to store texture data in a texture map set, the texture map set comprising two or more texture layers [emphasis supplied]." Examples of this multi-dimensional texture storage are shown in FIGs 3 and 4A-D of the present application. By storing texture data in layers, the present invention makes possible the creation of certain semi-opaque images that were heretofore impossible. Whereas Chauvin teaches storing texture information in the traditional manner as RGBa format, *see e.g.*,

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column 32, lines 50-51, in contrast, the present invention stores texture information in multiple layers, such as, for example, $\alpha\alpha\alpha\alpha$ $RRRR$ $GGGG$ $BBBB$. For example, FIG 3 shows a two-dimensional array in which each color (R, G or B) in an RGB triplet has an associated α , i.e., α_R , α_G , α_B , respectively, and there are multiple RGB triplets and α triplets associated with each memory location (each column pair is a separate texture layer and each triplet row has associated multiple triplet pairs). As Chauvin et al. fails to disclose the above-mentioned missing teaching, Chauvin therefore fails to disclose the claimed inventions, as set forth in independent claims 1, 17, 27 and 40 and the claims that depend therefrom. Therefore, Chauvin et al. fails to anticipate these independent claims as well as the claims that depend therefrom. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-41 is therefore respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

The Applicant respectfully submits this application is in condition for allowance and requests issuance of a Notice of Allowability.

In the event the prosecution of this application can be efficiently advanced by a phone discussion, it is requested that the undersigned attorney be called at (703) 435-9390.

FEES

If additional amounts are due following the amendments made to the claims above, or for any other reason, it is respectfully requested that the PTO charge any deficiency or credit any

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overpayment to the deposit account of Mayer Fortkort & Williams PC, Deposit Account, #50-1047.

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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